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"The Rivals"

Question: Write a short note on Miss Lydia Languish.

Answer: Miss Lydia Languish is the heroine of the main plot. She is a young girl of seventeen years of age. Her parents have died, so she is living with and under the guardianship of her middle-aged widow aunt Mrs. Malaprop. She is very rich but according to the will of her deceased father, she cannot marry without the approval and consent of her aunt and if she does so before coming of age, she stands to lose two-thirds of her inheritance. Her aunt is very strict and is involved in a secret love affair with an Irish adventurer, Sir Lucius. Miss Lydia is a spoilt child of fortune. Most of her time is passed in reading worthless romantic novels, so her mind is full of worthless romantic stuff.

She is in love with Beverley, an ordinary army officer whose

real name is Captain Absolute. Lydia is a stubborn and self-willed girl. She has three suitors. Ensign Beverley, her own choice, Bob Acres, the choice of her aunt Mrs. Malgrave for her, Captain Absolute. This Captain Absolute and Beverley are one and the same person. Lydia is a comic exaggeration of the fashionable romantic heroine of the sentimental comedies. She is devoid of rationality, discretion, sense of balance and proportion. She is prepared to sacrifice her heritage for her romantic ideal of marrying a poor lover against the wishes of her aunt.

The end.

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